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JUL 25 2003

Paper No. 17

In re Application of :
Craig L. Linden : DECISION ON SECOND
Application No. 09/856,228 : RENEWED PETITION
Filed: May 16, 2001 :
For: Method and Apparatus For
Powered Interactive Physical Displays

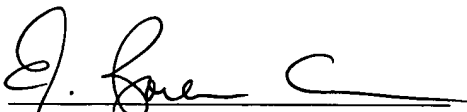
This is a decision on the second renewed petition filed by facsimile transmission on July 13, 2003 by which petitioner renews his request to withdraw the examiner's holding that this application stands abandoned for failure to timely file a proper reply to the Office letter mailed on June 12, 2002. No fee is required for consideration of the second renewed petition.

The second renewed petition is granted.

A review of the petition shows that petitioner has adequately supported his allegation that he failed to reply to the Office letter in question because he did not in fact receive that Office letter. Because the Office letter dated June 12, 2002 was not received, the application cannot be abandoned for failure to reply thereto.

Accordingly, the Notice of Abandonment is hereby vacated, the holding of abandonment is withdrawn, and the application is restored to pending status. The application is being forwarded to the Head Supervisory Applications Examiner for remailing of paper No. 8, the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. The Head Supervisory Applications Examiner will also attach information regarding the new revised amendment format which will become effective on July 30, 2003, and petitioner must comply with that format when filing an amendment as required by the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. Petitioner will have a period of ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS from the date of remailing, whichever is longer, in which to file the required amendment. If necessary, petitioner will be able to obtain extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) by requesting the extension and paying the appropriate extension fees. In no event can the period for replying to the remailed Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment be extended to run more than six months from the date of remailing.

PETITION GRANTED.


E. Rollins-Cross, Director, Patent
Examining Groups 3710 and 3720

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 25, 2003

TO: Technology Center Directors

FROM: Stephen G. Kunin *Stephen G. Kunin*
Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy

SUBJECT: Revised Amendment Practice Final Rule Effective July 30, 2003

All amendments filed on or after the effective date noted above must comply with revised 37 CFR 1.121. See Final Rule: **Changes To Implement Electronic Maintenance of Official Patent Application Records** (68 *Fed. Reg.* 38611 (June 30, 2003)), posted on the Office's website at: <http://www.uspto.gov/web/patents/ifw/notices.html> with related information. The amendment practice set forth in revised 37 CFR 1.121, and described below, replaces the voluntary revised amendment format available to applicants since February 2003. The Office will notify applicants of preliminary and non-final amendments that are not accepted because they do not comply with revised 37 CFR 1.121 via a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. See MPEP 714.03 (Rev. 1, Feb. 2003). After-final amendments will be treated by examiners in advisory actions. The non-compliant section(s) of the amendment will have to be corrected and the entire corrected section(s) resubmitted within a set period.

The revised amendment practice is essentially the same as the amendment practice that the Office set forth in *AMENDMENTS IN A REVISED FORMAT NOW PERMITTED*, 1267 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 106 (February 25, 2003) with some exceptions summarized here. The revised amendment practice, as distinguished from the voluntary revised amendment format, now: (1) requires the use of seven claim status identifiers (formerly eleven) including new identifiers "previously presented" and "not entered," (2) requires the inclusion of text for "withdrawn" claims and the exclusion of text for "not entered" claims in the complete listing of all claims, (3) mandates use of underlining and strikethrough for indicating changes to the specification and/or claims, (4) permits use of double brackets for the deletion of five or fewer characters or difficult to perceive text, and (5) provides for applicant's submission of, or examiner's requirement for, annotated drawing sheets in addition to the required replacement drawing sheets.

Amendments filed prior to July 30, 2003 in compliance with the previous version of 37 CFR 1.121 or the revised version promulgated in the Notice of Final Rule Making 68 *Fed. Reg.* 38611 (June 30, 2003) will be accepted. New informational flyers are being inserted with each out-going Office Action mailed during the period of June 2003 to August 2003. The flyer instructs applicants in the procedures to be used to comply with the revised practice for amendments to the claims, specification, and drawings. A copy of the flyer is included herewith for your information.

Further Assistance: Any questions regarding the submission of amendments pursuant to the revised practice should be directed to Office of Patent Legal Administration (OPLA) Legal Advisors, Elizabeth Dougherty (Elizabeth.Dougherty@uspto.gov), Gena Jones (Eugenia.Jones@uspto.gov) or Joe Narcavage (Joseph.Narcavage@uspto.gov). Alternately, you may send e-mail to patentpractice@uspto.gov, the OPLA e-mail address that has been established for receiving queries and questions about patent practice and procedures or telephone OPLA at 703.305.1616.

Attachment: Flyer - Revised Amendment Practice: 37 CFR 1.121 Changed (Rev. 3, 7/24/03)

**REVISED AMENDMENT PRACTICE: 37 CFR 1.121 CHANGED
COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY - Effective Date: July 30, 2003**

All amendments filed on or after the effective date noted above must comply with revised 37 CFR 1.121. See Final Rule: **Changes To Implement Electronic Maintenance of Official Patent Application Records** (68 Fed. Reg. 38611 (June 30, 2003)), posted on the Office's website at: <http://www.uspto.gov/web/patents/ifw/> with related information. The amendment practice set forth in revised 37 CFR 1.121, and described below, replaces the voluntary revised amendment format available to applicants since February 2003. **NOTE: STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE REVISED 37 CFR 1.121 IS REQUIRED AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE (July 30, 2003).** The Office will notify applicants of amendments that are not accepted because they do not comply with revised 37 CFR 1.121 via a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. See MPEP 714.03 (Rev. 1, Feb. 2003). The non-compliant section(s) will have to be corrected and the entire corrected section(s) resubmitted within a set period.

Bold underlined italic font has been used below to highlight the major differences between the revised 37 CFR 1.121 and the voluntary revised amendment format that applicants could use since February, 2003.

Note: The amendment practice for reissues and reexamination proceedings, except for drawings, has not changed.

REVISED AMENDMENT PRACTICE

I. Begin each section of an amendment document on a separate sheet:

Each section of an amendment document (e.g., Specification Amendments, Claim Amendments, Drawing Amendments, and Remarks) must begin on a separate sheet. Starting each separate section on a new page will facilitate the process of separately indexing and scanning each section of an amendment document for placement in an image file wrapper.

II. Two versions of amended part(s) no longer required:

37 CFR 1.121 has been revised to **no longer require** two versions (a clean version and a marked up version) of each replacement paragraph or section, or amended claim. Note, however, the requirements for a clean version and a marked up version for **substitute specifications** under 37 CFR 1.125 have been retained.

A) Amendments to the claims:

Each amendment document that includes a change to an existing claim, cancellation of a claim or submission of a new claim, must include a complete listing of all claims in the application. After each claim number in the listing, the status must be indicated in a parenthetical expression, and the text of each pending claim (with markings to show **current** changes) must be presented. The claims in the listing will replace all prior claims in the application.

- (1) The current status of all of the claims in the application, including any previously canceled, not entered or withdrawn claims, must be given in a parenthetical expression following the claim number using only one of the following seven status identifiers: (original), (currently amended), (canceled), (withdrawn), (new), **(previously presented)** and **(not entered)**. The text of all pending claims, **including withdrawn claims**, must be submitted each time any claim is amended. Canceled **and not entered** claims must be indicated by only the claim number and status, without presenting the text of the claims.
- (2) The text of all claims **being currently amended** must be presented in the claim listing with markings to indicate the changes that have been made relative to the immediate prior version. The changes in any amended claim must be shown by underlining (for added matter) or strikethrough (for deleted matter) with 2 exceptions: (1) for **deletion of five characters or fewer, double brackets may be used (e.g., [[error]]**; and (2) if **strikethrough cannot be easily perceived (e.g., deletion of the number "4" or certain punctuation marks), double brackets must be used (e.g., [[4]])**. **As an alternative to using double brackets, however, extra portions of text may be included before and after text being deleted, all in strikethrough, followed by including and underlining the extra text with the desired change (e.g., number 4 as number 14 as).** An accompanying clean version is not required and should not be presented. Only claims of the status "currently amended," and "withdrawn" that are being amended, may include markings.
- (3) The text of pending claims **not being currently amended, including withdrawn claims**, must be presented in the claim listing in clean version, i.e., without any markings. Any claim text presented in clean version will constitute an assertion that it has not been changed relative to the immediate prior version except to omit markings that may have been present in the immediate prior version of the claims.

- (4) A claim being canceled must be listed in the claim listing with the status identifier "canceled"; the text of the claim must not be presented. Providing an instruction to cancel is optional.
- (5) Any claims added by amendment must be presented in the claim listing with the status identifier "(new)"; the text of the claim must not be underlined.
- (6) All of the claims in the claim listing must be presented in ascending numerical order. Consecutive canceled, or not entered, claims may be aggregated into one statement (e.g., Claims 1 – 5 (canceled)).

Example of listing of claims (use of the word "claim" before the claim number is optional):

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): A bucket with a handle.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): A handle comprising an elongated wire.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The handle of claim 7 further comprising a plastic grip.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A bucket with a green blue handle.

Claim 10 (original): The bucket of claim 9 wherein the handle is made of wood.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (not entered)

Claim 13 (new): A bucket with plastic sides and bottom.

B) Amendments to the specification:

Amendments to the specification, including the abstract, must be made by presenting a replacement paragraph or section or abstract marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version. An accompanying clean version is not required and should not be presented. Newly added paragraphs or sections, including a new abstract (instead of a replacement abstract), must not be underlined. A replacement or new abstract must be submitted on a separate sheet, 37 CFR 1.72. If a substitute specification is being submitted to incorporate extensive amendments, both a clean version (which will be entered) and a marked up version must be submitted as per 37 CFR 1.125.

The changes in any replacement paragraph or section, or substitute specification must be shown by underlining (for added matter) or strikethrough (for deleted matter) with 2 exceptions: (1) for deletion of five characters or fewer, double brackets may be used (e.g., [[eroor]]); and (2) if strikethrough cannot be easily perceived (e.g., deletion of the number "4" or certain punctuation marks), double brackets must be used (e.g., [[4]]). As an alternative to using double brackets, however, extra portions of text may be included before and after text being deleted, all in strikethrough, followed by including and underlining the extra text with the desired change (e.g., number 4 as number 14 as)

C) Amendments to drawing figures:

Drawing changes must be made by presenting replacement figures which incorporate the desired changes and which comply with 37 CFR 1.84. An explanation of the changes made must be presented either in the drawing amendments, or remarks, section of the amendment, and may be accompanied by a marked-up copy of one or more of the figures being amended, with annotations. Any replacement drawing sheet must be identified in the top margin as "Replacement Sheet" and include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even though only one figure may be amended. Any marked-up (annotated) copy showing changes must be labeled "Annotated Marked-up Drawings" and accompany the replacement sheet in the amendment (e.g., as an appendix). The figure or figure number of the amended drawing(s) must not be labeled as "amended." If the changes to the drawing figure(s) are not accepted by the examiner, applicant will be notified of any required corrective action in the next Office action. No further drawing submission will be required, unless applicant is notified.

Questions regarding the submission of amendments pursuant to the revised practice set forth in this flyer should be directed to: Elizabeth Dougherty or Gena Jones, Legal Advisors, or Joe Narcavage, Senior Special Projects Examiner, Office of Patent Legal Administration, by e-mail to patentpractice@uspto.gov or by phone at (703) 305-1616.